



2024 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



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20
24

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

EDUCATION

CHILDCARE

EMPLOYMENT

HOMELESS

TRANSPORTATION

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

Enactment of items included in the 2024 Joint State Legislative Agenda will help to attract and retain jobs, ensure that there is an adequate workforce and help provide a safe and prosperous place to live and work in the South Central Region. We urge the support of the following:

- Support of **education**, **childcare**, and **workforce development** policies to help grow talent and workforce density in South Central Kansas.
- Fully fund the downtown Wichita WSU KU **Biomedical campus**.
- Support a \$50 million appropriation to establish a state matching grant program to address **local homelessness** needs.
- Support policies that expand **commercial air service** at Eisenhower Airport.
- Support the extension of the **Heartland Flyer Amtrak** line connection.
- Support of policies that enhance **economic development** throughout the South Central region to grow the economy, increase job opportunities, and enhance the quality of life.

JOINT REGIONAL AGENDA		
Workforce	Support education, workforce development and childcare policies to help grow the number of skilled workers in South Central Kansas.	
Biomedical Campus	Fully fund the downtown Wichita WSU KU Biomedical Campus.	
Homelessness Grant Funding Match	Support funding for a \$50 million grant match program for local municipalities to address local homelessness infrastructure and services.	
Passenger Rail	Support the extension of the Heartland Amtrack Flyer line connection.	
Commercial Air Service	Support funding for the KDOT's Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) to help fund strategic flights and promote economic development in the region.	
Economic Development	Support policies that enhance economic development throughout the South Central Region.	
KEY LEGISLATIVE ISSUES		
Affordable Housing	Adopt policies and tax credit options that address affordable housing investments in urban settings and areas of blight.	
Broadband Deployment	Monitor and support the extension of new technologies to underserved citizens.	
Marijuana Reform	Support legalization of medical marijuana.	
Medicaid Expansion	Support expansion of Medicaid (KanCare) that is revenue neutral and encourages personal responsibility.	
Mental Health	Support increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for mental health services, continued funding of the 988-mental health hotline and support tax credits for mental health professionals.	
Parolee Allocation	Continue discussions with partners on parolee allocation, re-entry programs, DCF funding for mentorship and costs to communities.	
Property Tax	Support reform in the Truth in Taxation calculation to account for economic growth. Oppose legislation and/or constitutional amendments that cap property valuation increases.	
Transportation Funding	Support funding for the Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program.	

	Support the expansion of South-Central Kansas trails and funding of initiatives to improve safety for all road users, including those walking and biking.	
Tax Policy	<p>Support a permanent STAR Bonds Food Sales Tax Revenue Replacement fund to hold current STAR Bonds districts harmless from the phase down of the sales tax on food. STAR Bonds districts affected include: Wichita K-96, Derby, Overland Park, Manhattan and Salina</p> <p>Work with legislative leaders to ensure that legislation exempting taxes for government competition with private entities is not overly burdensome for local governments.</p> <p>Support the reinstatement of the Local Ad Valorem Property Tax Reduction Fund, City-County Revenue Sharing Fund and Special City-County Highway Fund.</p>	
Water	Support discussions to address the municipal water supply and regulatory uncertainty for the region.	
WPD Issues	<p>Support legislation regarding bail bond requirement for release.</p> <p>Support legislation to indemnify companies from liability when law enforcement cameras are attached to their existing poles.</p> <p>Support stunt rider legislation that will enact felony provisions of fleeing and eluding an officer if an individual flees an exhibition of speed stop.</p>	
	OTHER ISSUES TO WATCH	
Criminal Justice Reform	Monitor criminal justice reform efforts in Kansas.	
Communications Infrastructure	Monitor ongoing issues around legislation passed last session regarding right-of-way communications infrastructure and electronic transmission facilities.	
Hazardous Contaminants	Monitor the KDHE definition of hazardous contaminants as it relates to PFAS, which are long lasting chemicals whose components break down slowly over time.	
Local Preemption	Monitor legislation that preempts local authority.	
Opioid Settlement	Monitor opportunities to collaborate with the state in the distribution of the opioid settlement fund.	

Stand Your Ground	Monitor the Kansas Stand Your Ground Law as it relates to individual in custody.	
WPD Issues	<p>Monitor efforts to create statewide system for massage therapists.</p> <p>Monitor state legislation strengthening criminal law for persons who carry a firearm while involved drug distribution.</p>	